Eden; Mr. Chamberlain wrote Mussolini a letter intended to facilitate an Anglo-Italian Agreement. This agreement, when it was concluded, again laid down that the Mediterranean status quo should be preserved, and specified that Italian troops should be withdrawn from Spain, the Italian garrison in Libya reduced, and anti-British propaganda emanating from Italian sources discontinued. It survived Italy's annexation of Albania, the participation of Italian troops in all General Franco's campaigns, and in his several times postponed victory celebrations in Madrid, and the continuous vituperation of Signor Gayda and others, and may be regarded, as far as any agreement concluded among mortals may be so regarded, as indestructible.

Having tasted appeasement, Mr. Chamberlain developed a voracious appetite for it. He had hitherto, apart from his pronouncement that sanctions were the Very midsummer of madness', shown little interest in foreign affairs; now he took to them with a beginner's passion and recklessness, though not luck. As, in his business days, he had been accustomed to go after a contract in person when less enterprising rivals contented themselves with submitting a written tender, so now he was determined to go after peace in person. A chat with Mussolini or with Hitler, even a friendly nod to Stalin, would make all the difference. Chamber of Commerce Quixote, Knight of the Woeful Countenance, bearing umbrella instead of lance, his chivalry Rotarian, his accoutrements funereal, he set forth hopefully to save the world from an impending catastrophe.

His setting forth, with Lord Halifax, his Sancho

Panza, trotting faithfully beside him, was signalised by one of Hitler's vitriolic speeches, soon followed by the German occupation of Austria. The explosion momentarily delayed their progress; but when its fury was spent—protests all made, statements of resolute fidelity to existing engagements duly registered, and impossibility of tolerating further acts of aggression duly announced in unmistakable terms—they picked themselves up and proceeded on their way. If the Italian Government's contemptuous disregard of obligations solemnly undertaken, was no impediment